

Ruth Alpers
3580 Harrow Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45209

May 26, 2022

Susan Manchester, Chair
Ohio House Families, Aging and Human Services Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona and Ranking Member Denson,

My name is Rabbi Ruth Alpers, MAHL, BCC. I am a board-certified chaplain through Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains. I have over 25 years of experience in providing spiritual care for patients and their caregivers, and I have been on staff at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center for more than 12 years.

I am asking that the Ohio General Assembly leave the practice of medicine to licensed healthcare providers. I am gravely concerned that HB454 sets a dangerous precedent by interfering with medical decision making and parent/caregiver autonomy to discuss care options in consultation with their child's medical provider as well as accessing the supportive care they need.

In a time when the demand for child and adolescent psychosocial support is at its highest, HB454 makes the demand even higher. Taking away the supports that are helping our families cope with their child's gender dysphoria is not the answer.

I implore you to vote no on HB454. This bill sets a dangerous precedent.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Ruth Alpers